AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method of diagnosing a patient as having a neoplasia, said method comprising detecting an endocan nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide in a patient sample, wherein detection of an endocan nucleic acid or polypeptide indicates that said patient has a neoplasia.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient sample is a blood sample.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient sample is a tissue sample.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises detecting an increase in the level of expression of an endocan polypeptide in a patient sample relative to the level of endocan polypeptide present in a corresponding control sample from a normal individual.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said level of expression is determined in an immunological assay.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said level of expression is detected by ELISA.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is asymptomatic.

8. (Original) A method of assessing the responsiveness of a neoplasm to a treatment regimen, said method comprising determining the level of an endocan nucleic acid or polypeptide in a patient sample relative to the level in a reference sample, wherein an alteration in said nucleic acid or polypeptide level in said patient sample indicates the responsiveness of said neoplasm to a treatment regimen.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said reference sample is derived from a healthy individual.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said patient is being treated for a neoplasm.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said reference sample is obtained from said patient prior to or during the course of said treatment regimen.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said patient sample is a blood sample.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said patient sample is a tissue sample.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said alteration is an increase, and said increase indicates a decreased responsiveness of said neoplasm to a treatment regimen.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said alteration is a decrease, and said decrease indicates an increased responsiveness of said neoplasm to a treatment regimen.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said neoplasm is a renal cell carcinoma, a lung cancer, a glioma, or a breast carcinoma.

17. (Original) A method of determining the prognosis of a patient having a neoplasm, said method comprising detecting an alteration in the level of an endocan nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide in a patient sample relative to the level in a reference sample, wherein an alteration indicates the prognosis of said patient.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said reference sample is obtained from said patient prior to or during the course of said treatment regimen.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said alteration is an increase, and said increase indicates a poor prognosis.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said alteration is a decrease, and said decrease indicates a good prognosis.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said patient sample is a tissue sample or a blood sample.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said level of expression is determined in an immunological or enzymatic assay.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said neoplasm is a renal cell carcinoma, a lung cancer, a glioma, or a breast carcinoma.

24. (Original) A diagnostic kit for the detection of a neoplasm in a patient comprising an endocan nucleic acid or amino acid sequence, or a fragment thereof.

25. (Original) A diagnostic kit for the detection of a neoplasm in a patient comprising an anti-endocan antibody.

26-75. (Cancelled)